

**MINUTES OF THE
AUBURN CITY PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING
June 19, 2012**

The regular session of the Auburn City Planning Commission was called to order on June 19, 2012 at 6:00 p.m. by Chair Spokely in the Council Chambers, 1225 Lincoln Way, Auburn, California.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Snyder, Spokely, Vitas, Worthington, Young

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT: Will Wong, Community Development Director
Lance E. Lowe, AICP, Associate Planner

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. PLEDGE OF ALLIGIENCE

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

None

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

V. COMMISSION BUSINESS

A. Sign Ordinance Update – Meeting #4.

Director Wong reviewed the sign issues presented in the staff report, noting that the Commission had requested additional information, and suggested the manner in which the Commission could review the ordinance issues. He also noted that the City had received letters from the Chamber of Commerce and the Downtown Business District earlier in the day and that copies were provided to the Commissioners.

The Commission agreed with Director Wong's approach to review each issue individually.

Director Wong summarized the Commission's prior review relating to the banners, particularly the inclusion of an application fee; redirecting application fees to the Old Town and Downtown business districts, and the ability to use volunteers for enforcement. He noted that application fees are not currently collected for banner signs, but that a fee could be developed. Director Wong stated that the ability to

redirect banner application fees in the Old Town and Downtown districts to the respective business organizations could be a recommendation of the Commission, but it is a City Council decision. He also noted that the ability to use volunteers to conduct banner enforcement could be augmented by volunteers, but that would also be a policy decision of the City Council.

The Commission discussed requiring a fee for banner sign applications and requested that staff return with information on what the fee would be if it were to cover the City's full cost.

Director Wong reviewed the Commission's prior consideration to prohibit and eliminate can wall signs in the Downtown design review district, staff's survey of can signs in the district, and potential need for amortization if new standards were adopted.

The Planning Commission consensus was to prohibit can signs in the Downtown design review district and not to require an amortization schedule for existing can signs.

Director Wong summarized the new provisions for freestanding signs recommended in the working draft of the sign ordinance. Based on staff's current survey of freestanding signs, he recommended against the need for amortization.

The Planning Commission supported the standards for freestanding signs as presented in the draft ordinance and did not recommend an amortization schedule.

Director Wong reviewed the prior history of neon window signs in the Downtown and Old Town design review districts; discussed a staff survey of neon signs in the Old Town design review district; and noted the different boundaries between the Old Town historic and design review districts.

The Planning Commission recommended that the City allow neon window signs in the Downtown design review district as well as outlying portions of the Old Town design review district, but restrict neon window signs in the core Old Town historic district.

Director Wong indicated that a map could be provided to delineate the specific area within the Old Town historic district where the restriction would apply.

Director Wong summarized the Commission's prior discussion regarding window signs in the Old Town and Downtown design review districts, specifically their consideration of standards for window signs, including a maximum coverage percentage of the window.

The Commission recommended that the City not establish standards for window signs.

Chair Spokely closed the public hearing and noted that the Commission would continue its review of the Working Draft of the sign ordinance update at it's next hearing on June 19, 2012.

VI. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT FOLLOW-UP REPORTS

A. City Council Meetings

None

B. Future Planning Commission Meetings

Director Wong noted that a Commission hearing is scheduled for June 19, 2012.

C. Reports

None

VII. PLANNING COMMISSION REPORTS

The purpose of these reports is to provide a forum for Planning Commissioners to bring forth their own ideas to the Commission. No decisions are to be made on these issues. If a Commissioner would like formal action on any of these discussed items, it will be placed on a future Commission agenda.

None

VIII. FUTURE PLANNING COMMISSION AGENDA ITEMS

Planning Commissioners will discuss and agree on items and/or projects to be placed on future Commission agendas for the purpose of updating the Commission on the progress of items and/or projects.

None

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lance E. Lowe
Associate Planner